



## Increasing Multicultural Diversity in Agriculture: Education and Partnerships

### Award No. 2007-38422-18511

### \$440,000

Laredo Community College

Texas State University

Southwest Texas Junior College



#### Objectives include:

- To create and implement a Joint Admissions Plan so that students interested in agriculture science degrees at LCC and SWTJC can be admitted dually receiving services and information; thereby increasing the number of Hispanic students at the university,
- To increase the number of completers and graduates at the two community colleges with successful transfer to the university,
- To develop early linkages with the university through classes, mentors, internships, scholarships, and field experiences thereby increasing the chances for completion of degrees,
- To increase the number of Hispanic students in agriculture degrees at TX State from baseline by 2% per year, and
- To increase the technology in the agriculture department at TX State in order to teach classes via tele-conference to dually admitted students at LCC and STJC thereby increasing the connections with the university. Students at the university will also be enrolled. Class activities will involve the entire class from the three institutions thereby creating greater intercultural acceptance. Objectives also include:
- To disseminate information on the successes and best practices through a Texas Hispanic Serving Institutions Consortium website,
- To prepare students for the rigors of agriculture courses by early exposure to institutions thereby creating greater intercultural acceptance, and
- To prepare students for the rigors of agriculture courses by early exposure to those skills and activities in pre-college academies.

**PI:** Nora R. Garza, Ph.D.

**Co-PI:** Douglas G. Morrish, Ph.D.

#### **USDA Need Areas:**

Instructional Delivery Systems  
Student Experiential Learning  
Student Recruitment and Retention

**All USDA Strategic Goals:** especially 6  
*Protect and Enhance the Nations' Natural Resource Base and Environment* by bringing together top-notch students from rural and border areas to complete degrees in agricultural sciences and agribusiness

**Activities:** Dual enrollment at the community college and university  
Teleconferenced courses  
Summer Academies dealing with water, soils, science and mathematics  
Informational tours of the university  
Internships  
Scholarships

**Evaluation:** External evaluation using identified baselines included in the objectives, timelines, and proposal.

**Impact:** A solid path for Hispanic and other underrepresented students to complete degrees in agriculture science and business to qualify for jobs with USDA